



**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
BEAUMONT DIVISION**

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

**VS.**

**THOMAS ROBERT BROWN**

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**CASE NO. 1:12-CR-54**

**FINDINGS OF FACT AND RECOMMENDATION ON PLEA OF TRUE  
BEFORE THE UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE**

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(b) and the Local Rules for the District Court, Eastern District of Texas, the District Court referred this matter for hearing and the submission of findings of fact and a report and recommendation pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §§ 3401(i) and 3583(e). The United States alleges that the defendant, Thomas Robert Brown, violated conditions of supervised release imposed by United States District Judge Thad Heartfield. The United States Probation Office filed its *Petition for Warrant or Summons for Offender Under Supervision* (doc. #26) requesting the revocation of the defendant's supervised release. The Court conducted a hearing on April 25, 2018, in accordance with Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure 11, 32 and 32.1. The defendant was present and represented by counsel at the hearing. Having heard the evidence, this court factually finds that the defendant has violated conditions of supervision and recommends that such violation warrants the revocation of his supervised release.

After conducting the proceeding in the form and manner prescribed by Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 11, the Court finds:

a. That the defendant, after consultation with counsel of record, has knowingly, freely and voluntarily consented to the administration of the plea of true in this cause by a United States Magistrate Judge subject to a final approval and imposition of sentence by the District Court.

b. That the defendant is fully competent and capable of entering an informed plea, that the defendant is aware of the nature of the charges and the consequences of the plea, that her plea of true is a knowing and voluntary plea, not the result of force or threats, and that the plea is supported by an independent evidentiary basis in fact establishing each of the essential elements of the conduct.

### **STATEMENT OF REASONS**

#### **A. Procedural History**

On October 15, 2012, The Honorable Thad Heartfield of the Eastern District of Texas sentenced the defendant after he pled guilty to the offense of Possession of Materials Involving the Sexual Exploitation of Minors, a Class C felony. Judge Heartfield sentenced Mr. Brown to 78 months imprisonment, to be followed by five (5) years of supervision subject to the standard conditions of release, plus a number of special conditions adopted by the Court. *See Judgment* (doc. # 23). On February 16, 2018, the defendant completed his period of imprisonment and began service of the supervision term.

#### **B. Allegations in Petition**

The United States Probation Office alleges that the defendant violated the following special condition of release:

*The defendant shall not possess or view any images in any form of media or in any live venue that depicts sexually explicit conduct. For the purpose of this special condition of supervised release, the term “sexually explicit conduct” is as defined under 18 U.S.C. § 2256(2)(A), and is not limited to the sexual exploitation of children.*

Specifically, on April 5, 2018, Mr. Brown admitted to viewing pornography, on a daily basis, beginning in mid-March 2018.

**C. Evidence presented at Hearing:**

At the hearing, the Government proffered evidence in support of the allegation in the petition to revoke. If the case proceeded to a contested hearing, the Government would establish that Mr. Brown was placed on conditions of supervised release by United States District Judge Thad Heartfield and that this supervision term began on February 16, 2018. The evidence would further show that the conditions of Mr. Brown’s supervised release prohibited him from possessing or viewing pornographic content. This condition was not limited to child pornography but rather includes a prohibition against all pornography. The Government proffered evidence indicating that on April 5, 2018, Mr. Brown admitted to viewing pornography on a daily basis, beginning in mid-March 2018.

Defendant, Thomas Robert Brown, offered a plea of true to the allegations. Specifically, he agreed with the evidence summarized above and pled true to the allegation that he viewed pornography in violation of his supervision conditions.

**D. Sentencing Guidelines; Findings and Recommended Disposition**

The allegations, supporting evidence and plea of true warrant revocation of supervised release. *See* 18 U.S.C. § 3583(e)(3). The Court factually finds by a preponderance of the evidence that the defendant violated a special condition of his supervised release by viewing

pornography. This conduct constitutes a Grade C violation under U.S.S.G. § 7B1.3(a)(1). Upon finding a Grade C violation, the Court may revoke the defendant's supervised release. *See* U.S.S.G. § 7B1.3(a)(2).

Based upon the Defendant's criminal history category of I and the Grade C violation, the sentencing guidelines suggest a sentence of imprisonment for a period ranging from 3 to 9 months. *See* U.S.S.G. § 7B1.4(a). Because the original offense of conviction was a Class C felony, the statutory maximum imprisonment term upon revocation is two (2) years. *See* 18 U.S.C. § 3583(e)(3).

If the Court revokes a defendant's term of supervision and orders the defendant to serve a term of imprisonment for that revocation, the Court may also require that the defendant be placed on a new term of supervised release. *See* 18 U.S.C. § 3583(h). The length of this term of supervised release shall not exceed the term of supervised release authorized by statute for the offense which resulted in the original term of supervised release, less any term of imprisonment that was imposed upon revocation of supervised release. *Id.* In this case, the authorized term of supervised release by statute is not more than life. *See* 18 U.S.C. § 3583(h)&(k).

The Fifth Circuit states that Chapter 7 of the Sentencing Guidelines regarding the revocation of supervised release is advisory only. *See United States v. Cade*, 279 F.3d 265, 271 n.2 (5th Cir. 2002) (citing *United States v. Montez*, 952 F.2d 854, 859 (5th Cir. 1992); *United States v. Headrick*, 963 F.2d 777, 782 (5th Cir. 1992)). Because Chapter 7 was promulgated as an advisory policy statement and there are no applicable guidelines for sentencing after revocation of supervised release<sup>1</sup>, the Court may impose a greater or lesser sentence upon revocation. *United*

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<sup>1</sup> *See U.S. Sentencing Guidelines Manual*, Ch. 7, pt. A, cmt. 1 (“At this time, the Commission has chosen

*States v. Gonzalez*, 250 F.3d 923, 925 (5th Cir. 2001). Further, a sentence imposed for revocation will be upheld unless it is in violation of the law or plainly unreasonable. *Id.* See also *United States v. Pena*, 125 F.3d 285, 288 (5th Cir. 1997) (citations omitted).

Here, the evidence and the defendant's own admission supports a finding that the defendant committed a Grade C violation of his supervision conditions by viewing pornography. Defendant pled true, agreed with the Court's recommended sentence for that violation, and waived his right to allocute before the District Court.

Accordingly, based upon the defendant's plea of true, the agreement of the parties, and the evidence presented in this case, it is the recommendation of the undersigned United States Magistrate Judge that the District Court accept the plea of true and revoke Defendant's supervised release. The undersigned magistrate judge recommends that the District Court order Defendant, Thomas Robert Brown, to serve a term of **six (6) months** imprisonment. Pursuant to the defendant's request, the Court recommends placement in the **Federal Correctional Complex (FCC), in Beaumont, Texas**, for service of the prison term, if possible.

The Court further recommends that, upon release from prison, the defendant serve a new term of **supervised release of forty-four (44) months**. The new term of supervision should be subject to the same mandatory and standard conditions adopted by the Court and imposed in the original judgment of conviction, as well as the special conditions recommended by the United States Probation Office. The Court further finds that the special conditions stated in the judgment originally imposed by the District Court are still relevant based on the record of the case and the evidence submitted by the Probation Office in conjunction with the petition to

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to promulgate policy statements only.”)

revoke. The Court additionally finds that the special conditions recommended by the United States Probation Office are appropriate in this case and sufficiently tailored to Mr. Brown and his conduct. *See United States v. Caravayo*, 809 F.3d 269, 276 (5th Cir. 2015)(requiring that special conditions be tailored to the individual defendant and supported by the record). Mr. Brown admitted to viewing pornography less than a month after his term of supervision commenced. The Government established this by a preponderance of the evidence and defendant pled true to the conduct. Given the nature of Mr. Brown's original conviction and his admitted propensity toward sexually explicit material, the Court agrees with the United States Probation Officer's recommended conditions.

Accordingly, the new term of supervised release should include the following conditions, as recommended by the United States Probation Office:

"While on supervised release, the defendant shall not commit another federal, state, or local crime, and shall comply with the standard conditions that have been adopted by the court.

You must participate in any combination of psychiatric, psychological, or mental health treatment programs, and follow the rules and regulations of that program, until discharged. The probation officer, in consultation with the treatment provider, will supervise your participation in the program. You must pay any cost associated with treatment and testing.

You must comply with the requirements of the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (42 U.S.C. § 16901, *et seq.*) as directed by the probation officer, the Bureau of Prisons, or any state sex offender registration agency in which you reside, work, are a student, or were convicted of a qualifying offense.

You must participate in sex offender treatment services. These services may include psycho-physiological testing (i.e., clinical polygraph, plethysmograph, and the ABEL screen) to monitor your compliance, treatment progress, and risk to the community. You must abide by all rules and regulations of the treatment program, until discharged. The probation officer, in consultation with the treatment provider, will supervise your participation in the program. You must pay any costs associated with treatment and testing. Should you fail to pay as directed, you must perform 3 hours of community service for each unpaid session.

You must not have direct or indirect contact with children under the age of 18 unless supervised by an adult approved by the probation officer.

You must not possess or view any images in any form of media or in any live venue that depicts sexually explicit conduct. For the purpose of this special condition of supervised release, the term "sexually explicit conduct" is as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 2256(2)(A), and is not limited to the sexual exploitation of children. You must provide the probation officer with access to any requested financial information for purposes of monitoring your compliance with the imposed computer access/monitoring conditions.

You must submit to a search of your person, property, house, residence, vehicle, papers, computer, other electronic communication or data storage devices or media, and effects at any time, with or without a warrant, by any law enforcement or probation officer with reasonable suspicion concerning unlawful conduct or a violation of your conditions of supervision.

You must not possess or access a computer, except in the course of employment. Such computer shall have no modem or other device which would allow access to the Internet. You must allow the probation officer to have access to any computer to which you have access for the purpose of monitoring this condition, and must fully cooperate with the probation officer with regard to enforcement of this condition. You must provide the probation officer with access to any requested financial information for purposes of monitoring you compliance with the imposed computer access/monitoring conditions.

You must not use or own any device (whether or not at your place of employment, residence, or elsewhere) that can be connected to the Internet or used to store digital materials other than that authorized by the probation officer. This includes, but is not limited to, desktop computers, laptops, PDA's, electronic games, and cellular telephones. You must not use any device other than the one you are authorized to use. You must allow the U.S. Probation Office to install software designed to monitor activities. This may include, but is not limited to, software that may record any and all activity on the computers you may use, including the capture of keystrokes, application information, Internet use history, e-mail correspondence, and chat conversations. You will pay any costs related to the monitoring of your computer usage.

You must not maintain or create a user account on any social networking site (i.e., Facebook.com, Twitter.com, Google+, MySpace.com, Adultfriendfinder.com, etc.) that allows access to persons under the age of 18, or allows for the exchange of sexually-explicit material, chat conversations, or instant messaging. You must neither view nor access any web profile of users under the age of 18.

You must not use or possess any gaming consoles (including, but not limited to, Xbox, PlayStation, Nintendo, or devices without prior permission from the probation officer. You must not maintain or create a user account on any social networking site (i.e., Facebook.com, Twitter.com, Google+, MySpace.com, Adultfriendfinder.com, etc.) that allows access to persons under the age of 18, or allows for the exchange of sexually-explicit material, chat conversations, or instant messaging. You must neither view nor access any web profile of users under the age of 18.

If you reside in a household where a computer is present (i.e., it belongs to a parent, spouse, roommate, etc.), the owner of the computer must agree to allow the U.S. Probation Office to install software designed to monitor computer activities on such computer. This may include, but is not limited to, software that may record any and all activity on any computer you may use in the residence, including the capture of keystrokes, application information, Internet use history, e-mail correspondence, and chat conversations. You will pay any costs related to computer monitoring. You must advise anyone in your household that may use any computer in question that monitoring software has been installed.

You must not attempt to remove, tamper with, or in any way circumvent the monitoring software. You must not access any Internet Service Provider account or other online service using someone else's account, name, designation, or alias. You must disclose all on-line account information, including user names and passwords, to the U.S. Probation Office. You must also, if requested, provide a list of all software/hardware on your computer, as well as telephone, cable, or Internet service provider billing records, and any other information deemed necessary by the probation office to monitor your computer usage.

You must refrain from the purchase, possession, or use of digital cameras; digital recorders; or any other type of digital recording and/or photographic equipment.

You must not purchase, possess, have contact with, or use devices to include cellular telephones with photographic capability; cellular telephones with internet capability; laptop computers (other than a computer approved by the probation office which may be subject to monitoring); iPods; Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs); portable data storage devices such as thumb drives and Flash memory; or any other type of portable electronic device that is capable of communicating data via modem, wireless, or dedicated connection. You must also refrain from the purchase, possession, or use of digital cameras; digital recorders; or any other type of recording and/or photographic equipment.”

### **OBJECTIONS**

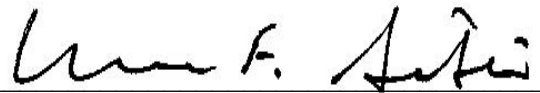
Objections must be: (1) specific, (2) in writing, and (3) served and filed within fourteen (14) days after being served with a copy of this report. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1). A party's failure to object bars that party from: (1) entitlement to *de novo* review by a district judge of proposed findings and recommendations, and (2) appellate review, except on grounds of plain error of unobjected-to factual findings and legal conclusions accepted by the district court. *See Douglass v. United Servs. Auto. Ass'n.*, 79 F.3d 1415, 1417 (5th Cir. 1996) (en banc).

The constitutional safeguards afforded by Congress and the courts require that, when a



party takes advantage of his right to object to a magistrate's findings or recommendation, a district judge must exercise its nondelegable authority by considering the actual evidence and not merely by reviewing and blindly adopting the magistrate judge's report and recommendation. *See Hernandez v. Estelle*, 711 F.2d 619, 620 (5th Cir. 1983); *United States v. Elsoffer*, 644 F.2d 357, 359 (5th Cir. 1981) (per curiam).

**SIGNED this the 27th day of April, 2018.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith F. Giblin", written over a horizontal line.

KEITH F. GIBLIN  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE